CU'RRYCOMB. *n.ſ.* [from *curry* and *comb.*] An iron inſtrument uſed for currying horſes.

He has a clearer idea from a little print than from a long definition; and ſo he would have of *ſtrigil* and *ſiſtrum*, if, inſtead of a *currycomb* and cymbal, he could ſee ſtamped in the margin ſmall pictures of theſe inſtruments. *Locke.*

To CURSE. *v. a.* [curſian, Saxon.]

1. To wiſh evil to; to execrate; to devote.

Curſe me this people; for they are too mighty for me. *Num.*

After Solyman had looked upon the dead body, and bitterly *curſed* the ſame, he cauſed a great weight to be tied unto it, and ſo caſt unto the ſea. *Knolles's Hiſtory of the Turks.*

What, yet again! the third time haſt thou *curſt* me:
This imprecation was for Laius' death,
And thou haſt wiſhed me like him. *Dryd. and Lee's Oedipus.*

2. To miſchief; to afflict; to torment.

On impious realms and barb'rous kings impoſe
Thy plagues, and *curſe* 'em with ſuch ſons as thoſe. *Pope.*

To CURSE. *v. n.* To imprecate; to deny or affirm with imprecation of divine vengeance.

The ſilver about which thou *curſedſt*, and ſpakeſt of alſo in my ears, behold the ſilver is with me. *Jud.* xvi. 2.

CURSE. *n. ſ.* [from the verb.]

1. Malediction; wiſh of evil to another.

Neither have I ſuffered my mouth to ſin, by wiſhing a *curſe* to his ſoul. *Job*, xxxi. 30.

I never went from your lordſhip but with a longing to return, or without a hearty *curſe* to him who invented ceremonies, and put me on the neceſſity of withdrawing. *Dryden.*

2. Affliction; torment; vexation.

Curſe on the ſtripling! how he apes his ſire!
Ambitiouſly ſententious! *Addiſon's Cato.*

CU'RSED. *participial adj.* [from *curſe.*]

1. Under a curſe; hateful; deteſtable; abominable; wicked.

Merciful pow'rs!
Reſtrain in me the *curſed* thoughts that nature
Gives way to in repoſe. *Shakeſpeare's Macbeth.*

2. Unholy; unſanctified; blaſted by a curſe.

Come lady, while heav'n lends us grace,
Let us fly this *curſed* place,
Leſt the ſorcerer us entice
With ſome other new device;
Not a waſte or needleſs ſound,
'Till we come to holier ground. *Milton.*

3. Vexatious; troubleſome.

This *curſed* quarrel be no more renew'd;
Be, as becomes a wife, obedient ſtill;
Though griev'd, yet ſubject to her huſband's will. *Dryden.*

One day, I think, in Paradiſe he liv'd;
Deſtin'd the next his journey to purſue,
Where wounding thorns and *curſed* thiſtles grew. *Prior.*

CU'RSEDLY. *adv.* [from *curſed.*] Miſerably; ſhamefully: a low cant word.

Satisfaction and reſtitution lies ſo *curſedly* hard on the gizzards of our publicans. *L'Eſtrange.*

Sure this is a nation that is *curſedly* afraid of being over-run with too much politeneſs, and cannot regain one great genius but at the expence of another. *Pope.*

CU'RSEDNESS. *n. ſ.* [from *curſed.*] The ſtate of being under a curſe.

CU'RSHIP. *n. ſ.* [from *cur.*] Dogſhip; meanneſs; ſcoundrelſhip.

How durſt he, I ſay, oppoſe thy *curſhip*,
'Gainſt arms, authority, and worſhip. *Hudibras, p.* i.

CU'RSITOR. n. ſ. [Latin.] An officer or clerk belonging to the Chancery, that makes out original writs. They are called clerks of courſe, in the oath of the clerks of Chancery. Of theſe there are twenty-four in number, which have certain ſhires allotted to each of them, into which they make out ſuch original writs as are required. They are a corporation among themſelves. *Cowel.*

Then is the recognition and value, ſigned with the handwriting of that juſtice, carried by the *curſitor* in Chancery for that ſhire where thoſe lands do lie, and by him is a writ of covenant thereupon drawn, and ingroſſed in parchment. *Bacon.*

CU'RSORARY. *adj.* [from *curſus*, Latin.] Curſory; haſty; careleſs. A word, I believe, only found in the following line.

I have but with a *curſorary* eye
O'erglanc'd the articles. *Shakeſpeare's Henry* V.

CU'RSORILY. *adv.* [from *curſory.*] Haſtily; without care; without ſolicitous attention.

This power, and no other, Luther diſowns, as any one that views the place but *curſorily* muſt needs ſee. *Atterbury.*

CU'RSORINESS. *n. ſ.* [from *curſory.*] Slight attention.

CU'RSORY. *adj.* [from *curſorius*, Latin.] Haſty; quick; inattentive; careleſs.

The firſt, upon a *curſory* and ſuperficial view, appeared like the head of another man. *Addiſon.*

CURST. *adj.* Froward; peeviſh; malignant; miſchievous; malicious; ſnarling

Mr. Maſon, after his manner, was very merry with both parties, pleaſantly playing both with the ſhrewd touches of many *curſt* boys, and with the ſmall diſcretion of many lewd ſchoolmaſters. *Aſcham's Schoolmaſter.*

I pray you, though you mock me, gentlemen,
Let her not hurt me: I was never *curſt*;
I have no gift at all in ſhrewiſhneſs:
I am a right maid, for my cowardice;
Let her not ſtrike me. *Shakeſ. Midſummer Night's Dream.*

I'll go ſee if the bear be gone from the gentleman, and how much he hath eaten: they are never *curſt* but when they are hungry. *Shakeſpeare's Winter's Tale.*

Her only fault, and that is fault enough,
Is, that ſhe is intolerably *curſt*,
And ſhrewd and forward, ſo beyond all meaſure,
That, were my ſtate far worſer than it is,
I would not wed her for a mine of gold. *Shakeſpeare.*

Go, write in a martial hand; be *curſt* and brief. It is no matter how witty, ſo it be eloquent, and full of invention. *Sh.*

When I diſſuaded him from his intent,
And found him pight to do it with *curſt* ſpeech,
I threaten'd to diſcover him. *Shakeſpeare's King Lear.*

And though his mind
Be ne'er ſo *curſt*, his tongue is kind. *Craſhaw.*

CU'RSTNESS. *n. ſ.* [from *curſt.*] Peeviſhneſs; frowardneſs; malignity.

Then, noble partners,
Touch you the ſow'reſt points with ſweeteſt terms,
Nor *curſtneſs* grow to the matter. *Shakeſ. Ant. and Cleopat.*

Her mouth ſhe writh'd, her forehead taught to frown,
Her eyes to ſparkle fires to love unknown;
Her ſallow cheeks her envious mind did ſhew,
And ev'ry feature ſpoke aloud the *curſtneſs* of a ſhrew. *Dryd.*

CURT. *adj.* [from *curtus*, Latin.] Short.

To CU'RTAIL. *v. a.* [*curto*, Latin. It was anciently written *curtal*, which perhaps is more proper; but dogs that had their tails cut, being called *curtal* dogs, the word was vulgarly conceived to mean originally *to cut the tail*, and was in time written according to that notion.]

1. To cut off; to cut ſhort; to ſhorten.

I, that am *curtail'd* of all fair proportion,
Deform'd, unfiniſh'd, ſent before my time
Into this breathing world. *Shakeſpeare's Richard* III.

Then why ſhould we ourſelves abridge,
And *curtail* our own privilege? *Hudibras, p.* ii. *cant.* 2.

Scribblers ſend us over their traſh in proſe and verſe, with abominable *curtailings* and quaint moderniſms. *Swift.*

This general employ, and expence of their time, would as aſſuredly *curtail* and retrench the ordinary means of knowledge and erudition, as it would ſhorten the opportunities of vice. *Woodward.*

Perhaps this humour of ſpeaking no more than we muſt, has ſo miſerably *curtailed* ſome of our words; and, in familiar writings and converſations, they often loſe all but their firſt ſyllables. *Addiſon's Spectator*, Nº. 135.

2. It has *of* before the thing cut off.

The count aſſured the court, that Fact his antagoniſt had taken a wrong name, having *curtailed* it *of* three letters; for that his name was not *Fact*, but *Faction.* *Addiſon.*

CU'RTAIL *Dog. n. ſ.* A dog whoſe tail is cut off, and who is therefore hindered in courſing. Perhaps this word may be the original of *cur.*

I, amazed, ran from her as a witch; and I think, if my breaſt had not been made of faith, and my heart of ſteel, ſhe had transformed me to a *curtail dog*, and made me turn i' th' wheel. *Shakeſpeare's Comedy of Errours.*

CU'RTAIN. *n. ſ.* [*cortina*, Latin.]

1. A cloath contracted or expanded at pleaſure, to admit or exclude the light; to conceal or diſcover any thing; to ſhade a bed; to darken a room.

Their *curtains* ought to be kept open, ſo as to renew the air. *Arbuthnot on Diet.*

So through white *curtains* ſhot a tim'rous ray,
And op'd thoſe eyes that muſt eclipſe the day. *Pope.*

Thy hand, great dulneſs! let's the *curtain* fall,
And univerſal darkneſs buries all. *Pope's Dunciad, b.* iii.

2. *To draw the* CURTAIN. To cloſe it ſo as to ſhut out the light, or conceal the object.

I muſt *draw a curtain* before the work for a while, and keep your patience a little in ſuſpence, 'till materials are prepared. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

Once more I write to you, and this once will be the laſt: the *curtain* will ſoon be *drawn* between my friend and me, and nothing left but to wiſh you a long good night. *Pope.*

3. To open it ſo as to diſcern the object.

Had I forgot thee? Oh, come in, Æmilia:
Soft, by and by; let me the *curtains* draw.
Where art thou? What's the matter with thee now? *Shakeſ.*

So ſoon as the all-cheering ſun
Should in the fartheſt Eaſt begin to draw
The ſhady *curtain* from Aurora's bed. *Shakeſ. Rom. and Jul.*

Peace, the lovers are aſleep:

They, ſweet turtles! folded lie
In the laſt knot that love could tie:
Let them ſleep, let them ſleep on,
'Till this ſtormy night be gone;
And th' eternal morrow dawn,
Then the *curtain* will be drawn,
And they waken with that light,
Whoſe day ſhall never ſleep in night. *Craſhaw.*

4. [In fortification.] That part of the wall or rampart that lies between two baſtions. *Military Dict.*

The governour, not diſcouraged, ſuddenly of timber and boards raiſed up a *curtain* twelve foot high, at the back of his ſoldiers. *Knolles's Hiſtory of the Turks.*

CURTAIN-LECTURE. *n. ſ.* [from *curtain* and *lecture.*] A reproof given by a wife to her huſband in bed.

What endleſs brawls by wives are bred!
The *curtain-lecture* makes a mournful bed. *Dryden's Juven.*

She ought to exert the authority of the *curtain-lecture*, and, if ſhe finds him of a rebellious diſpoſition, to tame him. *Addiſ.*

To CU'RTAIN. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To incloſe or accommodate with curtains.

Now o'er one half the world
Nature ſeems dead, and wicked dreams abuſe
The *curtain'd* ſleep. *Shakeſpeare's Macbeth.*

The wand'ring prince and Dido,
When with a happy ſtorm they were ſurpriz'd,
And *curtain'd* with a counſel-keeping cave. *Shakeſpeare.*

But in her temple's laſt receſs incloſ'd,
On dulneſs' lap th' anointed head repoſ'd:
Him cloſe ſhe *curtain'd* round with vapours blue,
And ſoft beſprinkled with cimmerian dew. *Pope's Dunciad.*

CU'RTATE *Diſtance. n. ſ.* [In aſtronomy.] The diſtance of a planet's place from the ſun, reduced to the ecleptick.

CURTA'TION. *n. ſ.* [from *curto*, to ſhorten, Latin.] The interval between a planet's diſtance from the ſun and the curtate diſtance. *Chambers.*

CU'RTELASSE. } See CUTLASS.
CU'RTELAX. }

CU'RTSY. See COURTESY.

CU'RVATED. *adj.* [*curvatus*, Latin.] Bent.

CURVA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*curvo*, Latin.] The act of bending or crooking.

CU'RVATURE. *n. ſ.* [from *curve.*] Crookedneſs; inflexion; manner of bending.

It is bent after the manner of the catenarian curve, by which it obtains that *curvature* that is ſafeſt for the included marrow. *Cheyne's Phil. Prin.*

Flaccid it was beyond the activity of the muſcle, and *curvature* of the officles, to give it a due tenſion. *Holder.*

CURVE. *adj.* [*curvus*, Latin.] Crooked; bent; inflected; not ſtreight.

Unleſs an intrinſick principle of gravity or attraction, may make it deſcribe a *curve* line about the attracting body. *Bentley.*

CURVE. *n. ſ.* Any thing bent; a flexure or crookedneſs of any particular form.

And as you lead it round, in artful *curve*,
With eye intentive mark the ſpringing game. *Thomſon.*

To CURVE. *v. a.* [*curvo*, Latin.] To bend; to crook; to inflect.

And the tongue is drawn back and *curved. Holder on Speech.*

To CU'RVET. *v n.* [*corvettare*, Italian.]

1. To leap; to bound.

Cry, holla! to thy tongue, I pr'ythee: it *curvets* unſeaſonably. *Shakeſpeare's As you like it.*

Himſelf he on an earwig ſet,
Yet ſcarce he on his back could get,
So oft and high he did *curvet*,
'Ere he himſelf could ſettle. *Drayton's Nymphid.*

Seiz'd with unwonted pain, ſurpriz'd with fright,
The wounded ſteed *curvets*; and, rais'd upright,
Lights on his feet before: his hoofs behind
Spring up in air aloft, and laſh the wind. *Dryden's Æneis.*

2. To friſk; to be licentious.

CU'RVET. *n. ſ.* [from the verb.]

1. A leap; a bound.
2. A frolick; a prank.

CURVILI'NEAR. *adj.* [*curvus* and *linea*, Lat]

1. Conſiſting of a crooked line.

The impulſe continually draws the celeſtial body from its rectilinear motion, and forces it into a *curvilinear* orbit; ſo that it muſt be repeated every minute of time. *Cheyne.*

2. Compoſed of crooked lines.

CU'RVITY. *n. ſ.* [from *curve*] Crookedneſs.

The joined ends of that bone and the incus receding, make a more acute angle at that joynt, and give a greater *curvity* to the poſture of the officles. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*

CU'SHION. *n. ſ.* [*kuſſen*, Dutch; *couſſin*, French.]

1. A pillow for the ſeat; a ſoft pad placed upon a chair.

Call Claudius, and ſome other of my men;
I'll have them ſleep on *cuſhions* in my tent. *Shak. Jul. Cæſar.*

If you are learn'd,
Be not as common fools; if you are not,

Let them have *cuſhions* by you. *Shakeſpeare's Coriolanus.*

But e're they ſat, officious Baucis lays
Two *cuſhions* ſtuff'd with ſtraw, the ſeat to raiſe;
Coarſe, but the beſt ſhe had. *Dryden's Fables.*

An Eaſtern king put a judge to death for an iniquitous ſentence; and ordered his hide to be ſtuffed into a *cuſhion*, and placed upon the tribunal, for the ſon to ſit on. *Swift.*

CU'SHIONED. *adj.* [from *cuſhion.*] Seated on a cuſhion; ſupported by cuſhions.

Many, who are *cuſhioned* upon thrones, would have remained in obſcurity. *Diſſertation on Parties.*

CUSP. *n. ſ.* [*cuſpis*, Latin.] A term uſed to expreſs the points or horns of the moon, or other luminary. *Harris.*

CU'SPATED. } *adj.* [from *cuſpis*, Latin.] When the leaves
CU'SPIDATED. } of a flower end in a point. *Quincy.*

CU'STARD. *n. ſ.* [*cwſtard*, Welſh.] A kind of ſweetmeat made by boiling eggs with milk and ſugar, 'till the whole thickens into a maſs. It is a food much uſed in city feaſts.

He cram'd them 'till their guts did ake,
With cawdle, *cuſtard*, and plumb cake. *Hudibras, cant.* ii.

Now may'rs and ſhrieves all huſh'd and ſatiate lay;
Yet eat, in dreams, the *cuſtard* of the day. *Pope's Dunciad.*

CU'STODY. *n. ſ.* [*cuſtodia*, Latin.]

1. Impriſonment; reſtraint of liberty.

The council remonſtranced unto queen Elizabeth the conſpiracies againſt her life, and therefore they adviſed her, that ſhe ſhould go leſs abroad weakly attended, as ſhe uſed; but the queen anſwered, ſhe had rather be dead than put in *cuſtody*. *Bacon's Apophthegms.*

For us enſlav'd, is *cuſtody* ſevere,
And ſtripes, and arbitrary puniſhment
Inflicted? *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt, b.* ii. *l.* 335.

2. Care; guardianſhip; charge.

Under the *cuſtody* and charge of the ſons of Merari, ſhall be the boards of the tabernacle. *Num.* iii. 36.

We being ſtrangers here, how dar'ſt thou truſt
So great a charge from thine own *cuſtody*. *Shakeſpeare.*

An offence it were, raſhly to depart out of the city committed to their *cuſtody*. *Knolles's Hiſtory of the Turks.*

There is generally but one coin ſtampt upon the occaſion, which is made a preſent to the perſon who is celebrated on it: by this means the whole fame is in his own *cuſtody*. *Addiſon.*

3. Defence; preſervation; ſecurity.

There was prepared a fleet of thirty ſhips for the *cuſtody* of the narrow ſeas. *Bacon's War with Spain.*

CU'STOM. *n. ſ.* [*couſtume*, French.]

1. Habit; habitual practice.

Blood and deſtruction ſhall be ſo in uſe,
That mothers ſhall but ſmile, when they behold
Their infants quarter'd by the hands of war;
All pity choak'd with *cuſtom* of fell deeds. *Shak. Jul. Cæſar.*

Cuſtom, a greater power than nature, ſeldom fails to make them worſhip. *Locke.*

2. Faſhion; common way of acting.

3. Eſtabliſhed manner.

According to the *cuſtom* of the prieſt's office, his lot was to burn incenſe when he went into the temple of the Lord. *Luk.* i.

And the prieſts *cuſtom* with the people was, that when any man offered ſacrifice, the prieſt's ſervants came, while the fleſh was in, with a fleſh-hook of three teeth in his hands. 1 *Sa.* ii.

4. Practiſe of buying of certain perſons.

You ſay he is aſſiduous in his calling, and is he not grown rich by it? Let him have your *cuſtom*, but not your votes. *Add.*

5. Application from buyers; as, *this trader has good* cuſtom.

6. [In law.] A law or right, not written, which, being eſtabliſhed by long uſe, and the conſent of our anceſtors, has been, and is, daily practiſed. We cannot ſay that this or that is a *cuſtom*, except we can juſtify that it hath continued ſo one hundred years; yet, becauſe that is hard to prove, it is enough for the proof of a *cuſtom*, if two or more can depoſe that they heard their fathers ſay, that it was a *cuſtom* all their time; and that their fathers heard their fathers alſo ſay, that it was likewiſe a *cuſtom* in their time. If it is to be proved by record, the continuance of a hundred years will ſerve. *Cuſtom* is either general or particular: general, that which is current through England; particular is that which belongs to this or that county; as gavelkind to Kent, or this or that lordſhip, city, or town. *Cuſtom* differs from preſcription; for *cuſtom* is common to more, and preſcription is particular to this or that man: preſcription may be for a far ſhorter time than *cuſtom*. *Cowel.*

7. Tribute; tax paid for goods imported, or exported.

The reſidue of theſe ordinary finances be caſual or uncertain, as be the eſcheats and forfeitures, the *cuſtoms*, butlerage, and impoſts. *Bacon.*

Thoſe commodities may be diſperſed, after having paid the *cuſtoms*, in England. *Temple.*

Cuſtoms to ſteal is ſuch a trivial thing,
That 'tis their charter to defraud their king. *Dryden.*

Strabo tells you, that Britain bore heavy taxes, eſpecially the *cuſtoms* on the importation of the Gallick trade. *Arbuthnot.*

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